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The Division of
Continuing Education

presents

Spanish and Culture in Cuernavaca, Mexico

June 4 – July 7, 1995

Spanish and Culture in Cuernavaca, Mexico

Each summer UMass Boston's Department of Hispanic Studies offers a special program in the beautiful city of Cuernavaca, Mexico, for students interested in learning Spanish in a totally Hispanic cultural environment. Through formal and informal instruction, the program aims to develop proficiency in conversation and writing and an appreciation of Mexican culture. Participants can earn up to six academic credits.

The City of Cuernavaca

Cuernavaca, known as the "city of eternal spring" because of its year-round pleasant climate and abundance of brightly colored flora, has long been an important Mexican cultural center. Approximately an hour's drive from Mexico City in the picturesque state of Morelos, it served as the winter residence of conqueror Hernan Cortes, whose mid-sixteenth century palace now houses the regional Cuauhnahuac Museum. The museum contains many interesting examples of Indian and Hispanic culture, including famous Diego Rivera murals.

Modern-day Cuernavaca is a lively center of cultural life, tourism, education, economic development, and political activity. Tourists visit from Mexico City, the United States, and Europe; students and scholars have for decades been attracted to Cuernavaca to explore, experiment with, and establish new methods for mastering Spanish. The city's cosmopolitan center is filled with sidewalk cafes where people meet to discuss politics, culture, and current affairs, while observing the passing parade of townspeople and Indians visiting from nearby villages to sell their wares. Away from the colorful and crowded center are large closed gardens, quiet houses, lovely churches, and dramatic landscapes.

The Program

The program is based at Universal Centro de Lengua y Comunicación Social. Universal is collectively owned and operated by a group of experienced language teachers who seek innovative ways to teach Spanish in a cultural context and have developed teaching methods to meet students' individual needs.

Language Instruction

The program offers language instruction at the elementary, intermediate, and advanced levels. Upon arrival, language students meet with an advisor to determine their level of proficiency and to discuss their special needs and interests. Students are placed according to their level in classes that meet five hours daily (Monday through Friday). The average class size is between four and six students.

Language instruction covers the following areas:

- **Grammar**
  Students learn grammatical structure through exercises from the Universal textbook; supplemental exercises are used when appropriate.

- **Conversation**
  Speaking ability is developed through discussions based on such readings as news articles or short stories as well as discussions of political, historical, or cultural topics.

- **Reading Comprehension**
  Assigned readings from various sources will depend on the class level. Readings are designed not only to improve fluency, but also to broaden students' knowledge of Mexican and Latin American writers and literature.

- **Composition**
  Vocabulary and writing ability are developed through the use of directed composition, specialized and idiomatic vocabulary, and such teaching devices as dictation.

Activities

Outside the classroom, the learning experience continues through a series of activities in and around Cuernavaca, such as visits to markets, museums, and historical sites, social and sports activities, and topical lectures. Also included in the program are a field trip to the pyramids of Teotihuacan, a major archaeological site near Mexico City, and an all-day visit to Taxco, a picturesque colonial city and the center of the Mexican silver industry.

Supervision

A member of the UMass Boston Hispanic Studies Department will travel with the group and closely supervise the progress of the students.

Housing

During their stay in Cuernavaca, students live and have their meals in the homes of Mexican families. This experience provides students with an invaluable insight into modern-day Mexican culture and society.

Weekend in Acapulco (Optional)

For an additional fee of $150, students may conclude their stay in Mexico with a weekend trip to the "Pearl of the Pacific," the resort city of Acapulco. The fee covers ground transportation to and from Acapulco as well as two nights' stay in a four-star hotel; meals are not included.

Application Procedure

Students wishing to participate in this program must complete an application form (available from the Division of Continuing Education). The application deadline is April 14, 1995. Applications received after this date will be considered if space is available.

Program Fee

The program fee is $1,595. This fee covers classroom instruction, materials, scheduled program activities, and program expenses including room, board, and scheduled group transportation between Mexico City and Cuernavaca. Please note that the fee does not cover insurance or transportation between the United States and Mexico.

Spanish and Culture in Cuernavaca, Mexico

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

☐ Please send me application materials.

☐ Please call me to discuss the program.

My telephone number is: _____

The best time to call is between _____ and _____.

Please indicate am and/or pm.

Clip out this form and return it to:

Division of Continuing Education
University of Massachusetts Boston
100 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125-3393

FAX 617 287-7922

Further Information

For further information and application materials, please fill out and return the form that is part of this folder or call the Division of Continuing Education at 617 287-7915.

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